Rural Sanitary District.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL

MEDICAL REPORT,

BY

RICHARD DOMENICHETTI, M.D.,

Deputy Inspector General, H.P., and Medical Officer of Health,

Louth Rural Sanitary Authority.



LOUTH:

PRINTED BY SHEPHERD AND SON, MARKET-PLACE, 1895.



TWENTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LOUTH UNION

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1894,

ВУ

RIGHARD DOMENIGHENNI, Q.D.,

Deputy Inspector General, H.P., and Medical Officer of Health,

Louth Rural Sanitary Anthority.



LOUTH:

PRINTED BY SHEPHERD AND SON, MARKET-PLACE. 1895.

Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2017 with funding from Wellcome Library

LOUTH UNION

Aural + Sanitary + District,

TWENTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT.



To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Acts Committee of the Louth District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

It is my pleasing duty to report a progressive improvement in the Public Health, which is doubtless due to the mildness of the season, and also in some measure to the useful results of the inspection of the District by your Sanitary Inspector, which year by year are more marked. It is only reasonable to suppose that his patient investigations and reports so well supported by your Committee should bear fruit, which have placed this District in a very good sanitary condition. It is not to be supposed however that these happy results can be maintained without the continued vigilance of the Sanitary officials; and obstacles frequently arise where the prevailing depression necessitates some delay in carrying out the necessary improvements. No single case however has required the intervention of the judicial authorities, as all the work has been carried out by the persistent representations of the Sanitary Authority, and it is gratifying to note how much good has been effected by the measures adopted, and with so little friction.

In reviewing the seasonal influences which have prevailed during the year, I may observe that the inclement cold weather during the first 3 months was productive of much pulmonary disease, no less than 9 deaths during this period were due to "Influenza" occurring amongst persons advanced in life and contributing largely to a high death rate. Subsequently the average death rate was under 10 per 1000, and the approach of a mild winter proved favourable in maintaining a low death rate. Taking the seasons on the whole they have been of an exceptionally beneficent character, and the absence of severe cold weather has been conducive to the health of the aged. Indeed, few seasons of late can compare with it.

Towards the close of the Summer and Autumn, preparations were made to resist the approach of Cholera, which happily did not reach these shores, but on the Continent of Europe there were several cases, and it was necessary that all Sanitary Authorities should be prepared for any emergency. Owing to the low temperature prevailing last season the Autumnal Diarrhea was of small account, and only 2 fatal cases occurred associated with the convulsions of childhood.

In offering some general remarks upon the more important diseases, I should include a mention of Diphtheria, not that it has been prevalent in the District, for not a single death has been registered under this head. In some parts of the country, and more especially in London it is a very aggressive disease, and is attended with much fatality, but the recent discovery of "Autitoxin" has enabled the profession to grapple with this formidable malady with much success. On the Continent of Europe many states have subsidised hospitals with large sums of money to carry out the new treatment discovered by Dr. Roux, of Paris.

The results are most encouraging, and the Sanitary Authorities of Kingston-on-Thames through their Medical Officer of Health, have reported that the effects of the new remedy have been "wonderful."

I think it right that the Sanitary Authority should have these facts placed before them, because, although the value of the Autitoxin remedy has been satisfactorily proved, yet more definite information is wanting, before complete reliance can be placed upon it, as a remedial agent in Diphtheria. Amongst the epidemic diseases I may mention that "Measles" have been prevalent in many of the villages, but the disease was generally of a mild type, and only 2 cases terminated fatally due to these complications.

It became necessary, however, to close some of the Schools owing to its prevalence. Farforth and Maidenwell Board School was closed for 10 days at the close of the year, and when the necessity for doing so was not so great, I furnished certificates, which protected the School Managers from loss accruing in the subventions from the Education Department of the Privy Council.

Scarlatina outbreaks have been comparatively few, only 2 deaths occurred during the year from this disease, viz.—1 at Muckton, and the other at Skidbrook.

The School at Welton-le-wold was closed for 3 weeks in the latter part of the year, owing to Scarlatina wide spread, but not of a serious type. The disease was imported from Louth, and an outbreak of it has occurred at Saltfleetby, which has hitherto been of a trouble-some character, but unattended with any fatality.

97 notifications under this head were received during the year, and where the entire closing of the school was not insisted on zealous care was taken to exclude infected families from attending. In this manner the curriculum of the school duties was interfered with as little as possible.

Although the notifications were greatly in excess of any others from infectious diseases, yet it may be affirmed that the disease was generally of a benign character. In both the fatal cases, abscesses in the throat were the immediate cause of death.

It would appear that the disease was modified by the good sanitary conditions of the villages affected. In some cases so mild as scarcely to be recognised, indeed, in many instances, the danger of spreading arose from those unrecognised cases, and no conviction by the magistrates could follow if a prosecution had been undertaken on the ground of wilful exposure, because the parents might have reasonably contended that the real nature of the illness was not known to them.

Typhoid Fever. Only 10 notifications were received during the year, and 1 case terminated fatally. The subject of it was a female aged 54, employed as a cook at the Mablethorpe Convalescent Home. She had "Influenza" in the first instance, and Typhoid symptons supervened, she succumbed after an illness of 7 weeks. Every care has been taken by the Committee to place the sanitary condition of the house upon a proper footing.

An outbreak of Typhoid Fever, 5 cases, occurred in the village of Manby, in 3 houses situated near an open drain, in a low lying District, which received the drainage of 6 houses in the vicinity. The water supply was derived from a well adjacent to the cottages where the first cases occurred, but the analysis of the water gave good results, and the well had been cleaned out only a short time previously so that the question of the water supply having caused the illness could not be entertained. Some defects of drainage were discovered, but the main cause of the outbreak, in my opinion was due to the

insanitary condition of the open drain at the side of the road. Orders were accordingly given for the Cottages on the North side of the road to desist from draining their slop refuse into the dike in question. All these cases made a good recovery, and no illness has been reported from that locality since.

A somewhat obscure case occurred at North Thoresby. The subject of it was a man aged 69, whose wife recovered from Typhoid Fever a short time previously, and the husband succumbed from what was certified to be Bronchitis and "Synochus," or inflammatory fever, about a month afterwards, although the notification specified Typhoid Fever.

There were 3 notifications of "Diphtheria" but no deaths under this head. In one case the disease was imported from Alford by the brother of a girl at Aby who recovered, and the disease was of a mild type.

There were three notifications of Erysipelas. None of the cases call for any comment, being generally associated with trifling wounds. Indeed I have long been of opinion that this disease should be removed from the category of Infectious Diseases, as it is only likely to spread in hospitals and large communities.

A case of Puerperal Fever was notified at Oxcombe, in a healthy cottage of recent construction and unassociated with insanitary conditions.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that he served 236 notices for the removal of Nuisances, and that 13 wells were cleaned out, and 6 new wells were constructed during the year.

After these remarks of a general nature, I shall in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board describe some of the influences which have acted injuriously with regard to the Public Health.

The seaside resort of Mablethorpe engrossed the attention of the Sanitary Officials during the long dry summer season, owing to a nuisance arising from the dike on the North side of the village from effluvia consequent upon the insufficient water supply for flushing purposes, it was overcome by periodical flushing when practicable, and the use of disinfectants. No house drains are connected with this dike.

The district has been systematically visited and at uncertain intervals, and when any cause existed for sanitary improvements, action was promptly taken.

Cholera precautions were taken during the summer, and orders were given to have a supply of medicines and disinfectants in readiness, which happily were not required.

In a sparsely populated district like this, no action was called for in respect of dairies, slaughter-houses, &c., as all are conducted without annoyance or injury to the Public. Over-crowding cases have been duly reported and remedied. In the village of Ludboro', a block of houses 3 in number, of which only 1 was inhabited, and constructed of mud and stud, covered with thatch, have been condemned after a survey by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. Another cottage in this village also has been condemned as unfit for the occupation of a

family, there was no privy, and the walls were an insufficient protection in bad weather. In the same parish the water supply was inadequate in 2 cases. I have not been called upon to condemn any meat, fish, or game, and I may observe that the food supplies have been fairly good. 2 Cottages at Cadeby have been reported on for various insanitary conditions, and are the subject of a notice to the owner.

The condition of an open drain offensive in the hot weather was supposed to have caused a case of typhoid fever at Waithe, and a notice was served to remedy the naisance, which has since been complied with.

A joint inspection of the village of Welton-le-Wold was necessary owing to the prevalence of Scarlatina imported from Louth. After closing the school, the epidemic which was not in any way induced by insanitary conditions, soon after ceased.

WATER SUPPLY.

73 samples of water were analysed and when necessary steps were taken to clean out the wells. I may add the water supply of the district is now good on the whole.

DRAINAGE.

No new works have been undertaken, and during the late dry summer no difficulty was experienced at Mablethorpe. The pumping was effectual in keeping the drains free from accumulations of sewage.

The other minor systems at N. Somercotes, Aby, and Ludford, have been worked without any difficulty.

Considerable improvements have been effected at Saltfleet, especially as regards the main street, and 2 or 3 of the more important houses in this parish.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The depressed state of Agriculture has caused many houses to stand empty, but several new ones have been built with the effect of improving the accommodation for the labouring population, over-crowding has rarely come under my observation, and when reported, steps have been taken to remedy it.

VITAL STATISTICS.—Population 21356.

There have been 450 Births during the year, 223 Male, and 227 Female, being in the ratio of 20·1 per 1000.

In 1893 the Birth rate was 23.9 per 1000. The Deaths in 1894 were 256, being in the ratio of 11.2 per 1000.

In 1893 the Death rate was 13.2 per 1000. If 14 violent deaths are excluded for the present year, the rate will be 11 per 1000.

The deaths from Zymotic diseases were 8 in number, being in the ratio of 3 per 1000; in the year 1893 there were 14 deaths, in the ratio of 6 per 1000.

The return for the last year is the lowest on record for many years past and is highly satisfactory.

The deaths of Infants of 1 year and under were 54, in the ratio 2.5 per 1000. The deaths of children over 1 year were 8, in the ratio of .03 per 1000.

In the year 1893 the ratio was 2.4 and .03 per 1000 respectively.

Cancer caused 8 deaths.

The Inquests were 18 in number.

There were 36 deaths from Lung affections, including 25 from Phthisis, and in 1893 there were 70 deaths inclusive of 20 from Phthisis. In 1892 there were 52 and 23 deaths respectively.

In the following Villages no deaths occurred during the year.

Brackenborough
Farforth-cum-Maidenwell
Little Grimsby
Raithby-cum-Maltby
Stewton
Ruckland
Authorpe
Claythorpe
Haugh
North Reston

South Reston
Tothill
Walmsgate
Biscathorpe
Calcethorpe
North Ormsby
East Wykeham
Castle Carlton
Conisholme
Covenham St. Bartholomew

There were 114 Notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year as under—

Scarlet Fever	•••	• • •	97
Typhoid Fever		•••	10
Diphtheria	• • •	• • •	3
Puerperal Fever	•••	* * *	1
Erysepelas	• • •	• • •	3
		Total	114

The Sub-Registration Districts will now be reviewed separately.

LOUTH SUB-DISTRICT.

1 Bracker	nborough	1	18	Little Grimsby
2 Burwell	O		14	Muckton
	Elkington		$\frac{15}{15}$	Oxcombe
	Elkington		16	Raithby and Maltby
	n and Maidenwell		$\overline{17}$	Ruckland
6 Fotherb				Stewton
7 Halling				Tathwell
8 Haugha			20	Utterby
9 Kedding			21	Welton-le-Wold
10 Legbour			22	Withcall
11 Louth I	Park		23	Worlaby
12 Little C	owthorno			•

Population—3,918.

	BIRTHS	•			DEATH	3.
Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.		Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.
49	41			25	16	
Tota	Total 90.		Total 41.		10.4.	

A child aged 6, died of Scarlatina in the Parish of Muckton; also one of Measles; and another of Diarrhæa, of the ages of 4 years, and 13 months respectively, in the same Parish.

WITHERN SUB-DISTRICT.

1	Withern	10	Tothill
2	Mablethorpe	11	Claythorpe
3	Trusthorpe	12	Authorpe [field
4	Gayton-le-Marsh	13	Belleau w. Aby & Green-
5	Strubby with Woodthorpe	14	South Thoresby
6	Maltby-le-Marsh	15	Swaby
7	Saleby with Thoresthorpe	16	Walmsgate
8	Hagnaby with Hannah	17	North Reston
9	Haugh	18	South Reston
U	1100511	10	South Hoston

Population—4,126.

	BIRTHS	•		DEATH	S.
Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.
22	29		25	22	
Tota	l 51.	23.	Total 47.		11.3.

A female aged 54, died at Mablethorpe Convalescent Home from Influenza and Typhoid Fever.

TETNEY SUB-DISTRICT.

Holton-le-Clay Yarborough [mew 1 2 Waithe 8 Covenham St. Bartholo-North Thoresby Covenham St. Mary 9 North Cotes 10 Fulstow 4 5 Marshchapel 11 Ludborough Grainthorpe with Ludney 12Grainsby and Wragholme 13 Tetney

Population—4,592.

BIRTHS.				DEATH	S.
Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.	Males	Females.	Rate per 1000.
57	56		35	31	
Total	l 113.	24·3.	Tota	1 66.	14.2.

A child under the age of 1 year died of Whooping Cough at Marshchapel.

SALTFLEET SUB-DISTRICT.

Saltfleet with Skidbrooke 7 Alvingham 1 Saltfleetby All Saints Theddlethorpe All Saints 8 3 Saltfleetby St. Peter 9 Theddlethorpe St. Helen Saltfleetby St. Clement 10 Grimoldby 4 North Cockerington Manby 5 11 Great Carlton South Cockerington 12

- 13 Little Carlton
- 14 Castle Carlton
- 15 North Somercotes

16 South Somercotes

17 Conisholme

Population—4,822.

	BIRTHS	•			DEATHS	3.
Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.		Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.
58	53	THE THE COURT HAT THE THE THE THE THE THE THE THE THE TH		26	32	
Tota	l 111,	23.0.		Total 58.		12.0.

A child of 7 years of age died at Skidbrook from Scarlatina.

6 bodies of derelict sailors were found upon the coast, names and ages unknown.

BINBROOKE SUB-DISTRICT.

1	Binbrooke	9	South Willingham
2	Kelstern	10	Biscathorpe
3	Ludford Magna	11	Donington
	Ludford Parva		Stenigot
5	Calcethorpe	13	North Ormsby
6	Gayton-le-Wold	14	Wyham-with-Cadeby
7	Burgh-with-Girsby	15	East Wykeliam
8	Hainton		, and the second

Population-3,909.

	BIRTHS	•	1		DEATHS	3.
Males.	Females,	Rate per 1000.		Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000.
37	48			20	24	
Tota	l 85.	21.7.	,	Tota	l 44.	11.2.

A child under 1 year of age died at Ludford Magna from Measles.

In conclusion I beg to tender my thanks to the Rural Sanitary Committee for their kind support during the past year.

RICHARD DOMENICHETTI, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.





